

BIATHLON

Continued from D1

ond at 49:11.4, just 10 seconds behind, while France's Julien Robert recorded his first World Cup podium finish by placing third at 49:20.7. Robert was the only male competitor to not miss a target in 20 attempts.

As for the women's 15K, Forsberg showed the form she has used to earn top ranking in all three of the events that will be contested at Soldier Hollow this week — the individual, the sprint and the pursuit. She also won the world championship in the women's 15K individual last month.

Wednesday at Soldier Hollow, she made good on all 20 of her shots and took top honors with a time of 43:02.6 — more than a half-minute ahead of her next challenger.

A pair of German teammates named Martina rounded out the podium of women's medalists, with Martina Zellner second at 43:40.2 with a single miss and Martina Galgow third at 44:13.4 with a sole missed target herself.

"I felt it," said Forsberg of the effects of the venue that's just shy of 1,800 meters — or 5,940 feet. "It was really tough to ski. I am not used to this altitude."

Forsberg is like most of the World Cup athletes who have been in the Rockies training for seven to 10 days in preparing to ski the Soldier Hollow course, the site of the biathlon competition for the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Olympics.

"When I crossed the finish line, I thought, 'I have to come four weeks before (the Olympics) next year,'" she said. "Maybe not four weeks, but more than one week like now."

Bjoernalden complimented the course as a quality mix of strong uphill segments and strong downhill portions — many with sharp curves at the end of the descents. Mindful of the more-than-a-mile-high elevation, he expressed his appreciation for the shooting range being located at the end of a downhill stretch, with a brief flat section leading to the firing areas.

"If you're faster, you would feel the pulse at the shooting range," he said, explaining that he slowed down because an overly rapid heart rate would throw off his aim. "In the (higher) altitude, you feel the pulse more."

Fischer, too, cited Soldier Hollow's elevation, which falls just short of the maximum allowed in World Cup biathlon and cross country. "I feel it. I feel it. It's very tough," he said after finishing his second-place effort. He later added, "If you don't train one to two weeks before and get used to it,



USA's Stacey Wooley leaves the start area as the first racer in the 15K event.

World Cup biathlon

Friday's sprints

Men's 10-kilometer, 10 a.m.

Women's 7.5-kilometer, 1

p.m.

Saturday's pursuits

Men's 12.5-kilometer, 9 a.m.

Women's 10-kilometer, 11:30 a.m.

you have no chance."

Fischer was hot on Bjoernalden's heels in the final stages of the race. However, Fischer suffered his sole missed target on the final standing session, dropping him to second.

Yet, the German wasn't disappointed with his misfire, saying he had performed much worse in training leading up to Wednesday morning's event. "It was my best result of shooting on the range since I've been here."

For the most part, the American biathletes fared about as well as U.S. coach Algis Shalna had expected — with the possible exception of Jay Hakkinen, the top male in recent years who is struggling to return to form after excessive distance training in the summer.

Hakkinen missed seven targets and finished in 72nd at 56:31.7,

more than 7½ minutes behind Bjoernalden. In fact, he was fourth among his U.S. teammates, trailing Robert Rosser (51st, three misses, 54:44.4), David Gieck (66, four misses, 55:46.6) and Lawton Redman (71st, six misses, 56:29.3).

"I was a little anxious on my trigger," Hakkinen said. "When they look like hits but they're misses, it's usually a trigger problem. I'm probably got a lecture waiting for me."

As for the American women and their finishes in the field of 78, Andrea Nahrang placed 49th, with a time of 49:21.1 and four missed targets; Rachel Steer also missed four and ended up 51st at 49:25.5; and Stacey Wooley finished 61st at 51:14.9 with three misses.

Hakkinen was happy to have the international field on what is his home course — an advantage the Americans hope to use at the 2002 Games. And he hopes the higher elevations continue to be a source of concern for the visitors.

"All week, they've not been complaining," he said, "but they're with long faces and very tired looks."

The Ruhrgas World Cup biathlon takes Thursday off for training, with the sprints scheduled for Friday and the pursuit Saturday. Admission is free.

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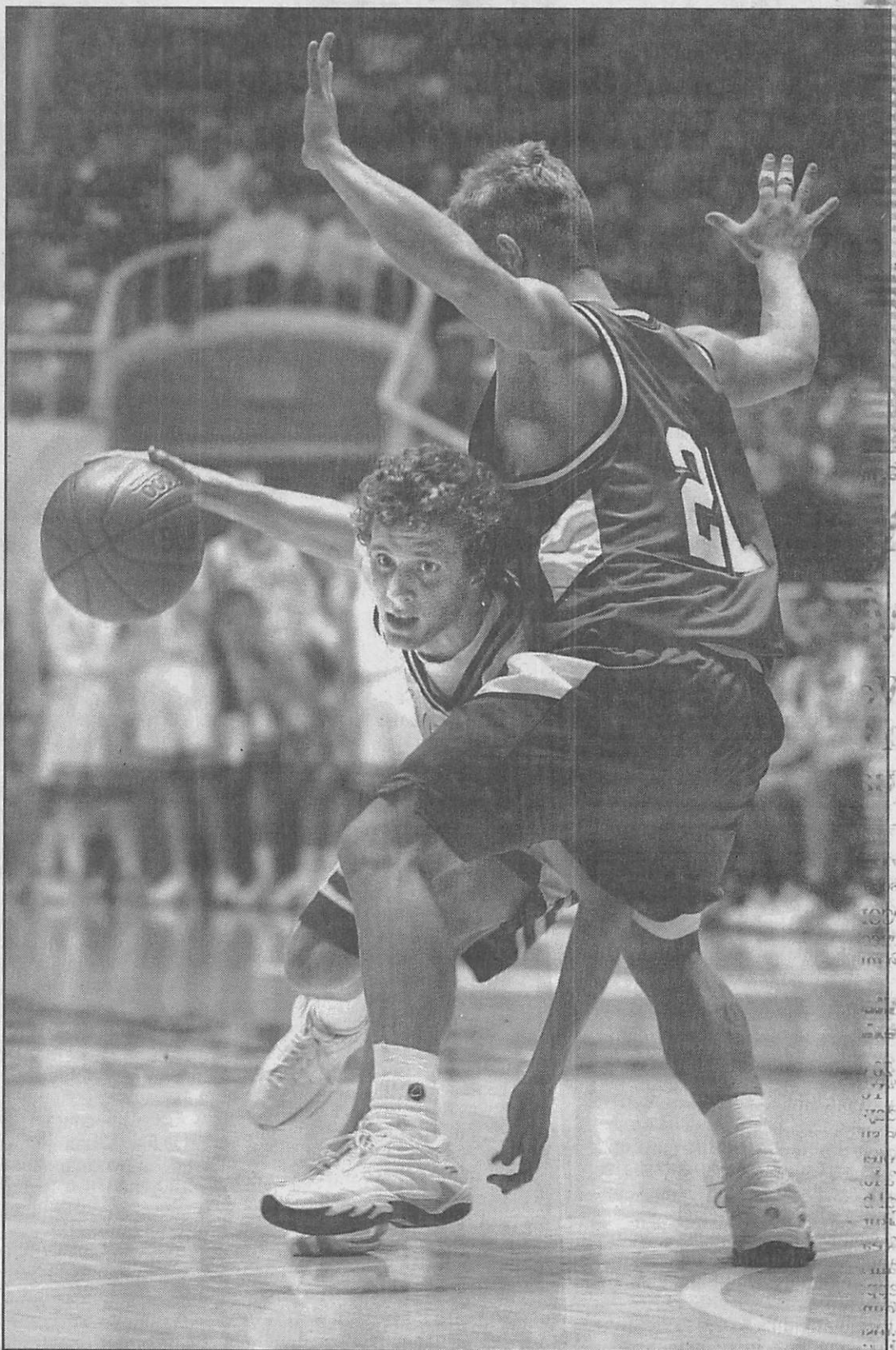
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Logan's Todd Nyman drives on Olympus' Dan Young during the Titans' 86-81 quarterfinal win Wednesday.

Photo gallery

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

► www.desnews.com/gallery/home.html

Behind Jensen, TJ Jacobsen had nine points for the Silver Wolves, while, behind Runia, Jacob Moon had 14 points and Kyle Roberts had 10 for the T-Birds.

In other lower-bracket action:

OLYMPUS 86, LOGAN 81: Craig Walton

scored 24 points on five 3-pointers, and Brandon Miller added 19 more as the Titans (18-4) outgunned Logan (19-4).

The Titans didn't take the lead until late in the fourth quarter but managed to hold the Grizzlies at bay from the foul line.

Olympus got offensive help from Lance Wallin and Russ Erickson, who had 14 points each.

Chad Fairbanks led the Grizzlies with 24 points, and Jared Lowe had 23. Michael Bennett had 14.

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3-1-01



Sweden's Magdalena Forsberg takes aim during women's 15K race at the Biathlon World Cup at Soldier Hollow.

JASON OLSON, DESERET NEWS

Ain't no mountain higher . . .

World Cup tour adjusts to altitude at Soldier Hollow

3-1-01

By Scott Taylor
Deseret News Olympics sports editor

SOLDIER HOLLOW— The low-down after the first day of the Ruhrgas World Cup Biathlon was the altitude, and even Wednesday's medalists were feeling the effects of a Rocky Mountain High.

On the highest biathlon course of

the World Cup tour, men's World Cup standings leader Raphael Poiree of France took a tumble in Wednesday morning's 20-kilometer individual biathlon event, while Sweden's Magdalena Forsberg solidified her spot atop women's rankings with a triumph in the afternoon 15-kilometer competition.

In addition to skiing the respective distances of the two events, biathletes had to make four stops on the shooting range and fire five shots from a .22-caliber rifle at a small target 50 meters away — alternating between the prone and standing positions at the four stops.

Each missed target results in a penalty minute being added to the competitor's score.

Wearing the yellow jersey of the current World Cup leader, Poiree missed a total of six shots — second-worst among the top 50 men's participants — and finished nearly five minutes out of contention, all the way back in 39th place.

Winning the men's 20K event was Norway's Ole Einar Bjoerndalen, who missed only two of his 20 targets and finished with a time of 49 minutes, 1.4 seconds.

Germany's Sven Fischer was sec-

Please see **BIATHLON** on D3

Colson	2	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	1	0
Totals	24036	71	21	29	6	44	23 14 95
Percentages: FG .507, FT .724. 3-Point							
Goals: 2-9, .222 (Francis 1-3, Williams 1-3, Mobley 0-1, Norris 0-2). Team Rebounds: 7.							
Blocked Shots: 12 (Cato 5, Anderson 2, Thomas 2, Mobley, Olajuwon, Francis). Turnovers: 16 (Francis 9, Thomas 3, Olajuwon 2, Mobley, Williams). Steals: 6 (Anderson 2, Norris 2, Francis, Thomas). Technical Fouls: Francis, 9:24 first. Illegal Defense: None.							
	FG	FT	Reb				
CHIC	Min	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	PFPTS	
Artest	35	6-14	1-2	0-7	4	1	13
Brand	33	10-22	1-2	1-5	3	2	21
BMiller	29	4-10	4-4	4-10	2	3	12
Hoiberg	37	3-5	0-0	0-2	5	4	7
Drew	33	3-10	0-0	0-1	8	3	9
Benjamin	21	3-11	0-0	1-4	0	3	6
Bagaric	16	1-5	0-0	3-8	0	2	2
Fizer	13	3-6	0-0	1-2	0	3	6
Crawford	13	0-3	0-0	0-1	3	2	0
Guyton	6	0-1	0-0	0-1	2	1	0
Tarlac	4	1-4	0-0	3-3	1	0	2
Totals	24034	91	6	8	13	44	28 24 78
Percentages: FG .374, FT .750. 3-Point							
Goals: 4-10, .400 (Drew 3-3, Hoiberg 1-2, Benjamin 0-1, Artest 0-4). Team Rebounds: 7.							
Blocked Shots: 6 (Brand 2, Bagaric 2, B.Miller, Tarlac). Turnovers: 14 (Benjamin 3, Artest 3, Brand 2, Fizer 2, Hoiberg, Bagaric, Crawford, Drew). Steals: 7 (Artest 3, Brand, Hoiberg, Crawford, B.Miller). Technical Fouls: Artest, 9:24 first. Illegal Defense: 1.							
Houston	19	28	26	22	-	95	
Chicago	29	14	19	16	-	78	
A-20,890 (21,711). T-2:00. Officials—Steve Javie, Tommy Nunez, Rodney Mott.							

Williams	24	2-4	6-8	0-5	0	4	10
Newman	24	6-10	2-4	0-1	1	5	15
Samake	4	0-1	0-0	1-1	1	0	0
Jackson	3	0-1	0-0	0-1	1	1	0
Totals	24033	76	18	26	5	37	20 25 88
Percentages: FG .434, FT .692. 3-Point							
Goals: 4-16, .250 (Newman 1-3, Harris 1-4, Marbury 1-4, Van Horn 1-5). Team Rebounds: 12.							
Blocked Shots: 4 (Martin 2, Van Horn, Eschmeyer). Turnovers: 12 (Martin 4, Van Horn 2, Harris 2, Marbury 2, Newman 2). Steals: 7 (Marbury 2, Newman 2, Van Horn, Harris, Martin). Technical Fouls: Illegal defense, 9:39 first. Illegal Defense: 1.							
	FG	FT	Reb				
CHAR	Min	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	PFPTS	
Mashburn	45	5-20	12-13	1-8	9	3	23
Brown	38	3-7	2-2	4-13	2	4	8
Campbell	22	5-12	5-5	1-7	0	4	15
Davis	34	4-11	1-2	2-5	3	1	9
Wesley	42	8-19	6-7	0-0	4	3	26
Magloire	9	0-0	1-2	0-3	1	2	1
ERobinson	23	2-3	1-2	0-3	1	2	5
Thorpe	21	2-5	0-0	1-7	2	3	4
James	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Totals	24029	77	28	33	9	46	22 23 91
Percentages: FG .377, FT .848. 3-Point							
Goals: 5-14, .357 (Wesley 4-5, Mashburn 1-5, Davis 0-4). Team Rebounds: 9. Blocked Shots: 8 (Brown 3, Campbell 3, Wesley, Magloire). Turnovers: 12 (Brown 3, Mashburn 2, Wesley 2, Davis 2, Thorpe 2, Magloire). Steals: 6 (Brown 2, Mashburn, Wesley, Campbell, Thorpe). Technical Fouls: None. Illegal Defense: 1.							
New Jersey	14	36	20	18	-	88	
Charlotte	17	25	27	22	-	91	
A-12,802 (19,925). T-2:11. Officials—Joe Forte, Ron Olesiak, Dee Kantner.							

Goals:	2-8, .250 (Barros 1-1, Curry 1-2, Owens 0-1, Stackhouse 0-4). Team Rebounds: 10.						
Blocked Shots: 5 (Atkins 2, Stackhouse, B.Wallace, Owens). Turnovers: 15 (Barros 3, Stackhouse 2, Atkins 2, B.Wallace 2, Cleaves 2, Williamson 2, Moore, J.Smith). Steals: 10 (Stackhouse 4, Williamson 3, Curry, B.Wallace, Cleaves). Technical Fouls: Stackhouse, 1:33 fourth. Illegal Defense: None.							
	FG	FT	Reb				
MINN	Min	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	PFPTS	
Szczerbiak	43	9-14	4-4	0-8	4	1	22
Garnett	41	7-18	4-4	6-10	10	0	18
Slater	14	1-3	2-3	1-6	1	5	4
Peeler	32	6-11	2-2	0-0	4	6	18
Brandon	39	10-19	3-3	0-5	7	1	23
Nesterovic	11	0-0	0-0	0-1	2	2	0
SMitchell	11	2-3	0-0	0-0	0	2	5
Billups	13	1-4	0-0	0-2	1	3	3
LEllis	22	2-7	5-6	1-2	1	5	9
Garrett	8	1-2	3-4	0-1	0	1	5
Avery	5	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Lopez	1	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Totals	24041	86	23	26	8	35	30 26 111
Percentages: FG .477, FT .885. 3-Point							
Goals: 6-13, .462 (Peeler 4-8, S.Mitchell 1-1, Billups 1-2, Szczerbiak 0-1, L.Ellis 0-1). Team Rebounds: 12. Blocked Shots: 5 (Garnett 2, L.Ellis 2, Garrett). Turnovers: 14 (Garnett 4, Billups 2, Szczerbiak 2, S.Mitchell, Peeler, Brandon, Avery, L.Ellis, Slater). Steals: 10 (Peeler 3, Garnett 2, Szczerbiak 2, S.Mitchell, L.Ellis, Slater). Technical Fouls: None. Illegal Defense: None.							
Detroit	22	33	14	31	-	100	
Minnesota	36	17	27	31	-	111	
A-16,273 (19,006). T-2:14. Officials—Joe DeRosa, Mike Callahan, Rashan Michel.							

Mutombo	40	2-6	6-8	6-18	1	2	10
Snow	36	2-7	0-0	1-5	3	2	4
Iverson	44	6-27	14-18	0-1	3	2	27
McKie	26	3-10	1-2	1-2	3	4	7
Buford	23	6-13	2-2	2-8	1	2	16
Geiger	13	0-0	0-0	0-2	1	2	0
Ollie	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	24026	78	24	32	19	55	12 20 79
Percentages: FG .333, FT .750. 3-Point							
Goals: 3-9, .333 (Buford 2-2, Iverson 1-4, McKie 0-3). Team Rebounds: 10. Blocked Shots: 6 (Mutombo 5, Buford). Turnovers: 14 (Iverson 3, Mutombo 3, Snow 3, Geiger 2, Lynch, Hill, Buford). Steals: 9 (Iverson 4, McKie 2, Snow 2, Mutombo). Technical Fouls: None. Illegal Defense: 1.							
Miami	17	15	21	16	-	69	
Philadelphia	18	22	20	19	-	79	
A-20,562 (20,444). T-2:17. Officials—Mike Mathis, Terry Durham, Violet Palmer.							

NBA TODAY

SIGNINGS

Dallas signed veteran guard Vernon Maxwell for the rest of the NBA season on Wednesday. The 35-year-old shooting guard joins the eighth team of his 13-year career. It also gives Maxwell the "Texas trio," having had two stints with San Antonio and winning consecutive championships with Houston in 1994-95. Maxwell has been out of the NBA since Philadelphia waived him in December. ... Minnesota signed guard Felipe Lopez, who was waived by Washington last week, to a contract for the rest of the season. Lopez started 38 of 47 games for the Wizards, averaging 8.1 points and 3.4 rebounds this season.

ing three with 10 or more, and 6.3 rebounds in his six games since a recent sit-down meeting with Sloan.

"It helped me a lot," Polynice said of the powwow. "It made a big difference in my approach, and everything else about the game, and what I needed to do."

"You all act like I just started playing this game," added Polynice, a 14-season vet who averaged as many as 12.5 points a game as few as four seasons ago. "I just try to stay within my role on this team, but you can go back a couple of years — I was able to put the ball in the basket for some teams."

In Utah, the majority of those points really are gravy — some-

thing in which the Jazz gladly will indulge.

"I think he's trying a lot harder defensively," Sloan said of Polynice, "and when that happens, it creates opportunities for you. I'm happy that both he and Greg (Ostertag) seem to be doing a good job for us. We need both of their abilities out there."

That's right, the Jazz need Polynice. They need Ostertag. And Sloan, for one, is not too big to say it.

MISC.: An MRI exam of Ostertag's sore back revealed only "slight irritation," a Jazz official said. Ostertag played 18 minutes Wednesday, including only six in the fourth quarter, but has not missed any games due to recent muscle stiffness in the back ... A

fourth-quarter miss ended Bryon Russell's string of successive free throws made ended at 33 ... The NBA on Wednesday extended from today to March 26 the deadline by which teams — namely, the Grizzlies — must apply to the league for approval to relocate for the 2001-02 season. Possibilities for a transfer of the Vancouver franchise still include Anaheim, Louisville and New Orleans ... Malone's third-quarter 3-pointer was his second of the season from behind the long-distance line ... Utah has held its last 19 opponents to fewer than 100 points ... The Jazz, winners of four straight at home, embark now on a three-game Eastern road swing that opens Friday night at Boston.

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